



Get involved: Local government

1. General information

* Required fields

Name of governing body: *

City of Asheville

You can create a name for each response. Name of this response:

Asheville Area Municipal

List communities included in your response:

These may be autonomous units of government contained within the boundaries of the responding entity (such as towns within a county), districts or neighborhoods within a town, or adjacent units of government responding together (such as a joint response of multiple counties or towns).

City of Asheville

Buncombe County

Contact person:

Name: *

Benjamin Teague

Title:

Sr. VP of Economic Development

Address: *

36 Montford Street
Asheville, NC 28801

State: *

North Carolina

ZIP (5 Digit): *

28801

Phone number:

828-258-6130

Email: *

bteague@ashevillechamber.org



Contact person has authority to provide these answers as the official position of the responding local government?
If not, please provide contact information for the local government official who does have such authority:

2. Background information about your community

* Required fields

Population (2008): *

If the response is for part of a city, please enter the corresponding population.

227875

Populated area in square miles: *

If the response is for part of a city, please enter the corresponding populated area.

656

Please describe how the population is distributed:

Buncombe County has a population density of 356.2 people per square mile
74768 are located within the City limits and the remaining 153107 are located in the county.

Median household income (\$ per annum): *

47450

Number of housing units: *

94145

Number of single family homes:

62732

Number of multi-family homes:

Number of apartment complexes:

15330

Average number of units per apartment complex:

15

Number of gated communities:

24

Average number of housing units per gated community:

164

Approximate percentage of households in entire community with access to broadband Internet service (%):

82

Approximate percentage of households in entire community that are currently subscribing to broadband Internet service (%):

Terrain:

Overall description of terrain:

The most urbanized areas tend to be located adjacent to the river(s), yet out of the floodplain.

The Blue Ridge Mountains and Smoky Mountains, much higher mountain chains, are outside of (yet surrounding) the metropolitan area.

Percentage of plains (%):

Percentage of rolling hills (%):

Percentage of mountains (%):

100

Percentage other terrain (%):

Climate:

Average annual highest temperature (°F):

67

Average annual temperature (°F):

56

Average annual lowest temperature (°F):

44

Average amount of snowfall per year (inches):

13

Average amount of rainfall per year (inches):

47

Average amount of hurricane or tornado activity in a year (days):

0

Local government:

Form of local government (city, town, county, etc.): *

City of Asheville

Buncombe County

Local government rule:

Limited rule

Source of government decision making (city manager, city council, mayor, etc.):

Both the City Council and County Commission have managers

Utilities:

Please list largest utilities and the approximate percentage of the community covered by each provider:

	Provider name:	Coverage (%):
Electric:	Progress	100
Gas:	PSNC	100
Water:	City of Asheville	100
Sewer:	MSD	100
Cable:	Charter Communicatic	73
Phone:	ATT and Verizon	82

Local economy mix (if available):

Number of high tech jobs:	10624
Number of manufacturing jobs:	11489
Number of education services jobs:	3969
Number of other service sector jobs:	128199

Colleges and universities (List names and average number of students enrolled at each, if available):

Asheville- Buncombe Technical Community College
26,408

University of North Carolina at Asheville 3,629

Montreat College
1,113

Warren Wilson College
1,002

South College
180

Major hospitals/health care facilities (List names):

All facilities listed have greater than 50 employees

Mission Health System and Hospital Home Women's
Cancer Centers

VA Medical Center- Asheville

Department of Veterans Affairs

Mountain Neurosurgical & Spine Center

Care Partners

CNC/Access, Inc

NC State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center
Davita Dialysis of Asheville

MAHEC Family Health Center

Genova Diagnostics

Asheville Cardiology Associates, PA

Advantage Care Services

Asheville Eye Associates

Banaltrum Caregivers

Asheville Gastroenterology Associates, PA

Interim Healthcare

Asheville Pediatric Associates, PA

ResCare HomeCare

Asheville Radiology Associates, PA

American Red Cross-Asheville

Asheville Women's Medical Center

Sisters of Mercy Services Corporation

Blue Ridge Bone & Joint Clinic, PA
The Family Health Centers

Current providers of high speed Internet service (Company; DSL, Cable modem, wireless, fiber, etc.):

Charter Communications - Cable

AT&T- provides DSL

Verizon- Provides DSL

Direcway and Starband- Satellite

Mountain Area Information Network (MAIN) and NewEraCom and Skyrunner- Wireless
hi-speed internet

ERC Broadband- Fiber Optic Network

Other significant features of your community that could be relevant for this project::

ERC (Education Research Consortium) is a non-profit entity with the mission of driving greater high-speed internet access in the Asheville Area. ERC operates an open network and stands ready for Google to utilize its 75 miles of fiber optic cable.

3. Collaborating on a Google fiber trial

* Required fields

In this section, we ask you to share how your community would work with Google to enable us to proceed quickly and effectively.

Are you, the local government, willing to appoint an individual to serve as a single point of contact (1)? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If so, please describe the responsibilities and authority that this individual will have:

Ben Teague is the Executive Director of the Economic Development Coalition (EDC). The EDC has been publicly recognized as the "quarterback" for the implementation of this project. The EDC has historically negotiated all incentives with local government entities and private business. The EDC has the authority to immediately pull together any group needed to make any needed decision. These groups range from internal city and county departments to CEO's and elected official.

The EDC is a "one stop shop" for all information.

Describe any current or planned programs in your community to accelerate and expand adoption and use of broadband Internet access:

Please see our Standards and Specs manual. This is an effort to engage private developers during construction to lay conduit in the ground for an open communications pipeline to be controlled by the city.

ERC Broadband operates 75 mile fiber network in Buncombe County and beyond. Through existing efforts and plans ERC will put significantly great fiber optic infrastructure in Buncombe County.

ERC Broadband is a non-profit provider of broadband service and actively seeks to expand the adoption of technology in the region.

Additional reasons why you believe that Google should select your community for this project:

Google's core competencies match up with Asheville's assets.

Google manages DATA and Asheville has data. Asheville is the Home of the National Climactic Data Center, the home of the world's climate data records. Massive amounts of information passe every minute from satellites into NCDC. The data is processed, cleaned up and stored for future use of commercial or government use.

As climate gains in exposure and prominence the NCDC offices are being utilized at an ever increasing rate.

Asheville's data storage and handling doesn't stop with NCDC but we have 2 other data centers; Netriplex and ERC broadband. However our fiber backbone access to the Google's Datacenter

and to Oak Ridge national Laboratory's supercomputer ability makes Asheville a natural middle ground site for future technology talent.

Google is about COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION. Currently Asheville is the top site for 2 pharmaceutical schools. A major research university, UNC Chapel Hill, has potential plans to place a pharmacy school which will utilize a 2.5 Million dollar technology backbone to hold class and engage remotely. A partnership of Mission Hospital, MAHEC, UNC Asheville, the Chamber, the City and County all came together with individual resources to push this collaborative model forward. Looking back to the founding days of the Vanderbilt's you realize Asheville was founded upon innovation. This innate spirit of innovation shows even today in our healthcare, climate, visualization and media arts efforts.

Further evidence that ideas and innovation can be incubated here and rolled out to the rest of the world is evidenced by Google's Juicy Ideas competition. The model for the competition, which is now known nationally, was seeded here in Asheville.

Asheville is committed, like Google, to a LIVE, WORK, PLAY model. Since Google's inception you have been dedicated to creativity and allowing your employees to "play" while working. Asheville not only espouses this model but entire communities have been developed along this commitment. Biltmore Park, a community that houses over 800,000 square feet of office and retail space was planned specifically to integrate residential, fitness, entertainment and business.

We feel Asheville fits Google.

Please provide a web link to any additional information you wish us to consider. Submissions using Google Maps or YouTube are encouraged:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWXP1C4wqTA&feature=player_embedded

4. Your community's support

* Required fields

Have you performed any outreach, study, or analysis regarding support in your community for this type of trial? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Describe how you ascertained or plan to ascertain the level of community support for this project (e.g., surveys, public hearings, meetings with community groups, etc.):

Asheville has already engaged it's citizens to inform them of this project and ascertained their level of support.

Asheville is clearly and overwhelmingly supportive of the Google Fiber project.

The support can be seen anecdotally in the large attendance at our Google Town Hall meeting, at the 20+ individual rallies, quantitatively through the simple social media response and website attendance (www.googleavl.com) and finally through our online survey.

The online survey was answered by 460 people. 455 said they would use the service and 354 said they would use it for both work and home and 94 just for home and the remaining 12 for only business purposes

Please describe your community's level of support for this project:

Asheville has come together for this project like never before.

When measuring our response versus other communities we ranked 7th in the nation. Our response in sheer numbers is comparable to communities that are 4 and 5 times our population size.

Asheville understands this effort is larger than 1 leader or 1 organization. The grass roots effort has been larger for this project than any other initiative in the known history of Asheville.

The EDC stands ready along with the City, County and citizens to continue holding any number of public hearings, run any amount of material over our two TV channels and conduct any survey Google needs in order to see the support for this project.

Please briefly summarize any additional comments or suggestions you would like to make to Google on behalf of your community:

The Asheville Area is a breeding ground of CREATIVITY and INNOVATION. We have moved quickly to engage our community and the community understands the impact and potential to further our existing talents and plans. We are prepared to move quickly for implementation and prepared to be flexible to maximize the ability to prove new technologies.

5. Facilities and resources

* Required fields

Deployment of a community-wide FTTH network will require Google to work closely with local government entities and other organizations. Google seeks to identify resources owned by the community that may assist in the rapid, smooth deployment of a residential fiber optic network. In this section, we ask you to share information about particular facilities and assets within the community that may be used or affected as part of such a facilities deployment, particularly those owned by the local government.

Please respond as completely and accurately as possible.

Pole attachments:

Please identify the entities, including units of the local government, that own or control utility poles in your community:

Entity name:

City of Asheville

Number of poles owned or controlled:

114

Annual rate per pole for pole attachment:

by telecommunications carriers (\$):

0

by cable system operators (\$):

0

by Internet access providers (\$):

0

Entity name:

Progress Energy

Number of poles owned or controlled:

101000

Annual rate per pole for pole attachment:

by telecommunications carriers (\$)

14

:

by cable system operators (\$):

14

by Internet access providers (\$):

14

Entity name:

Charter Communicati

Number of poles owned or controlled:

Annual rate per pole for pole attachment:

by telecommunications carriers (\$):

14

by cable system operators (\$):

14

by Internet access providers (\$):

14

If the local government will make its own poles available for attachments by Google, please estimate the number of days to complete the following steps, assuming full cooperation from Google:

Negotiation of a master pole attachment agreement:

90

Issuance of permits for individual attachments:

Developing specifications for make-ready work:

Completing make ready work:

If a unit of your local government has access to poles owned or controlled by third parties that it could make available to Google, please provide the following information:

Number of poles:

0

Entity or entities that own or control the poles:

The local utilities have a joint user agreement that charges from \$14-\$35 per year per pole

Describe any restrictions on your right to make such poles available to Google:

Historically the city has negotiated an institutional network (use of dark fiber) as part of the negotiated use of right-of-ways and the city is open to negotiating such an agreement with Google

Please identify any state or local laws, ordinances, rules, or other legal measures that govern access and rates for attachment:

None known other than typical requirements to place fiber 40" away from power lines.

Please provide contact information for any entities named above:

All entities can be contacted via Ben Teague who is listed as the single point of contact.

Conduits:

Please identify the entities, including units of local government, that own or control utility conduits in your community:

Entity name:

AT&T

Linear feet of conduit owned or controlled:

Annual rate per foot for conduit use:

by telecommunications carriers (\$):

by cable system operators (\$):

by Internet access providers (\$):

Entity name:

Charter Communications

Linear feet of conduit owned or controlled:

Annual rate per foot for conduit use:

by telecommunications carriers (\$):

by cable system operators (\$):

by Internet access providers (\$):

Entity name:

Linear feet of conduit owned or controlled:

Annual rate per foot for conduit use:

by telecommunications carriers (\$):

by cable system operators (\$):

by Internet access providers (\$):

If the local government will make its own conduits available for use by Google, please estimate the number of days to complete the following steps, assuming full cooperation from Google:

Negotiation of a master conduit agreement:

Issuance of permits:

If a unit of your local government has access to conduit owned or controlled by third parties that it could make available to Google, please provide the following information:

Linear feet:

Entity or entities that own or control the conduit:

Rate that you would charge Google (\$) per linear foot per year:

Describe any restrictions on your right to make such conduit available to Google:

Please identify local laws, ordinances, rules, or other legal measures that govern access rights and rates for conduit use:

Please provide contact information for any entity named above:

Public rights of way:



Does your local government directly control and administer the use of all public rights of way within its jurisdiction?
Describe any other entities that control and administer the use of the public rights of way in your community:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation controls state road right of ways. The City enjoys a good working relationship with NCDOT.

With respect to your processes for managing access to public rights-of-way, please estimate the number of days to complete the following steps, assuming full cooperation from Google:

Negotiation, approval, and issuance of a master right-of-way agreement:

90

Issuance of construction permits:

1

Post-construction inspections and approvals:

1

Please indicate the amount or method of calculating all fees and charges for use of the public rights-of-way, including the following (if applicable):

Application fees:

0

Linear foot (or other) usage fees:

\$2 per linear foot up to 2500 per cut

Inspection fees:

0

Other fees or charges:

Community sensitivities and policies:

Please describe any historical districts or other culturally or environmentally sensitive areas: *

Biltmore Village

Montford

Pisgah National Forest

These types of concerns can be addressed through the right-of-way (Franchise) agreement. It's our desire to maintain handicapped accessibility. We try to be sensitive regarding pole placement on sidewalks. We have a preference for undergrounding in historical districts.

Please describe your undergrounding plans and policies, if any: *

See Standards and Specs manual at

http://ashevillenc.gov/business/development_services/default.aspx?id=1134

Please identify unique ordinances, rules, policy statements, and other legal measures specific to your community that Google would have to comply in developing a fiber project:

See Chapter 4.5 of City code, "Cable Services and Telecommunications," available online at <http://library1.municode.com/default-test/home.htm?infobase=12499>. Underground activities require coordination through the NC One-Call center <http://www2.ncocc.org/ncocc/default.htm>.

6. Construction methods

* Required fields

Has your community worked with, studied, or evaluated the following types of construction methods for fiber to the home networks:

- ☒ Aerial
- ☒ Trenching
- ☒ Boring
- ☐ Micro-trenching
- ☒ Plow
- ☒ Rock saw
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None

Check approved methods of construction for your community: *

- ☒ Aerial
- ☒ Trenching
- ☒ Boring
- ☒ Micro-trenching
- ☒ Plow
- ☒ Rock saw
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None

Are there other construction methods that are approved for use in construction of fiber to the home or other telecommunications networks in your community? If so, please list them below:

While the above methods are currently approved the governmental entities are committed to being flexible so that Google can maximize the potential for new technologies.

7. Regulatory issues

* Required fields

Please describe the local regulatory obligations that would apply to Google if this project went forward in your community: *

See Chapter 4.5 of City code, "Cable Services and Telecommunications," available online at <http://library1.municode.com/default-test/home.htm?infobase=12499>

Please describe local business obligations and taxes/fees, if any, that would apply to Google if this project went forward in your community:

Business privilege license. See

http://ashevillenc.gov/business/business_in/business_licenses/default.aspx?id=522&ekmensel=28_submenu_74_link_1